

CLAIMS

1. A method for displaying a pictorial item corresponding to an audio content item, the method comprising:
 - identifying one or more characteristics of the audio content item;
 - searching a first remote network (114) for the corresponding pictorial item based on the identified one or more characteristics;
 - retrieving the corresponding pictorial item from the first remote network; and
 - displaying the pictorial item corresponding to the audio content item.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises:
 - searching the audio content item for a portion containing the one or more characteristics; and
 - retrieving the one or more characteristics from the portion.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the portion comprises an ID3 tag.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises:
 - searching a second remote network (114) for the one or more characteristics corresponding to the audio content item; and
 - retrieving the one or more characteristics from the second remote network.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the second remote network contains a database having a plurality of audio content items and one or more corresponding characteristics for each of the plurality of audio content items.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises analyzing the audio content item to obtain an audio fingerprint containing the one or more characteristics.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying comprises downsizing the pictorial item into a thumbnail icon (200, 202) at one of prior to the retrieving and subsequent to the retrieving.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the downsizing further comprises reducing a resolution of the pictorial item at one of prior to the retrieving and subsequent to the retrieving.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the pictorial item subsequent to the retrieving.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying is initiated automatically upon occurrence of an event.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the event is one of storing the audio content item, playing the audio content item, receiving a transmission of the audio content item, and downloading the audio content item.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying is initiated by a manual indication from a user.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying is initiated automatically upon occurrence of an event.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein the event is one of storing the audio content item, playing the audio content item, receiving a transmission of the audio content item, and downloading the audio content item.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying is initiated by a manual indication from a user.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the pictorial item is a CD cover corresponding to at least the audio content item.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the audio content item is a song track from a plurality of song tracks corresponding to the CD cover and wherein the displaying further comprises altering the CD cover to indicate the song track.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the altering comprises displaying a numerical value (204) with the CD cover, the numerical value indicating a song track number of the song track.

20. A computer program product embodied in a computer-readable medium for displaying a pictorial item corresponding to an audio content item, the computer program product comprising:

- computer readable program code means for identifying one or more characteristics of the audio content item;

- computer readable program code means for searching a remote network (114) for the corresponding pictorial item based on the identified one or more characteristics;

- computer readable program code means for retrieving the corresponding pictorial item from the remote network; and

- computer readable program code means for displaying the pictorial item corresponding to the audio content item.

21. An apparatus (100) for displaying a pictorial item corresponding to an audio content item, the apparatus comprising:

- a modem (112) operatively connected with a remote network (114);

- a processor (106) for identifying one or more characteristics of the audio content item; searching the remote network for the corresponding pictorial item based on the identified one or more characteristics; and retrieving the corresponding pictorial item from the remote network; and

- a display (104) for displaying the pictorial item corresponding to the audio content item.